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PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Marco CAERAN)	
Appln. No.	:	09/537,176)	Group Art Unit 3728
Filed	:	March 29, 2000)	Examiner Unknown
For	:	SPORTS BOOT WITH FLEXIBLE FRAME)	



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following materials were cited in a search report in French priority application No. 99 04297, upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicant describes below any comments relating to relevant portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

French Patent Publication No. 1 416 431 (DASSLER), published on January 24, 1966, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. Page 2, right column of FR '431 is cited as being pertinent.

French Patent Publication No. 2 745 691 (SALOMON S.A.), published on September 12, 1997, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. Claim 1 and Fig. 1 of FR '691 are cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,901,469 (SAILLET), issued on May 11, 1999, is cited on the annex of the search report as a family member of FR '691.

French Patent Publication No. 2 759 552 (SALOMON S.A.), published on August 21, 1998, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The skeleton 10 and the covering 30 of FR '552 are cited as being pertinent.

International Patent Publication No. WO 95/15094 (CANSTAR SPORTS GROUP INC.), published on June 8, 1995, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application, and as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 3 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. Claim 1 of WO '094 is cited as being pertinent.

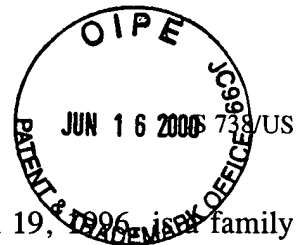
Canadian Patent Publication No. 2,084,829 (CANSTAR SPORTS GROUP INC.), published on June 9, 1994, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 8, and 9 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. Page 2, line 1, to page 3, line 21, of CA '829 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,498,033 (HOSHIZAKI et al.), issued on March 12, 1996, is cited on the annex of the search report as a family member of CA '829.

French Patent Publication No. 2 668 072 (VULLIERME INTERNATIONAL SARL), published on April 24, 1992, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. Claim 1 of FR '072 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 0 894 444 (BENETTON SPORTSYSTEM SPA), published on February 3, 1999, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to claims 1-4, 12, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The abstract and claims 1 and 8 of EP '444 are cited as being pertinent.

In addition to the above-mentioned documents cited in the search report of Applicant's priority application, French Patent Publication No. 2 702 935 (SALOMON S.A.), published on September 30, 1994, is brought to the Examiner's attention for reasons cited in the specification of the instant application on page 2 of the specification of the instant application.



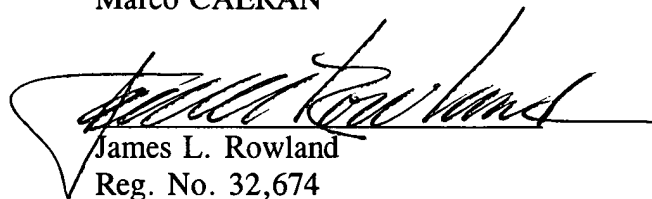
U.S. Patent No. 5,499,461 (DANEZIN et al.), issued on March 19, 1996, is a family member of FR '735.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 forms to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 forms and returning a copy of each of the initialled forms to Applicant.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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